

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

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R 311500Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECDEF WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 1356

INFO DA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4067

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E-TAC WARFARE (MR HEEBNER & CAPT CARRIER).

OASD(I&L) FOR MR C. FRANKE. DA FOR DARD-PPI.

E.O. 11652: GDS, 31-8-79

TAGS: MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION TO CNAD (CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL  
ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS) OF 155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER  
(SP.70) PROJECT FOR ADOPTION AS A NATO PROJECT

REF: AC/259-D/340(REV), 29 AUG 73 ((ALSO NUMBERED AC/225-D/325  
(REF))

BEGIN SUMMARY. AT ITS 3-4 APR 73 MEETING, THE NATO ARMY ARMAMENTS  
GROUP (NAAG) AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THE CNAD THAT THE 155MM SELF-  
PROPELLED HOWITZER (SP.70) BE ADOPTED AS A NATO PROJECT SUBJECT  
TO SIGNATURE BY THE FRG, UK AND ITALY TO THE MEMORANDUM OF  
UNDERSTANDING (MOU). MOU HAS BEEN SIGNED AND CNAD IS REQUESTED  
TO AGREE TO SETTING UP A NATO PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE. NATIONS  
ARE REQUESTED TO COMMENT BY 30 SEP, AND UNLESS COMMENTS ARE  
RECEIVED TO THE CONTRARY, CNAD AGREEMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED TO  
HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS BY  
28 SEP. END SUMMARY.

REF IS QUOTED FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION. BEGIN QUOTE.

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1. AT ITS MEETING HELD ON 3-4 APR 73, THE NAAG AGREED TO  
RECOMMEND TO THE CNAD THAT THE 155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER  
(SP.70) BE ADOPTED AS A QUOTE NATO PROJECT UNQUOTE SUBJECT TO THE  
IMMINENT SIGNATURE BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED

KINGDOM AND ITALY TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

2. THIS MOU HAS NOW BEEN SIGNED AND THE THREE COUNTRIES OFFER THE AGREEMENT ON THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF THE 155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER (SP.70) AS A NATO PROJECT TO ANY INTERESTED COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE TERMS OF C-M(66)33 2ND REV). SP.70 IS AN ARMoured TRACKED VEHICLE WITH AN ENCLOSED ARMoured FIGHTING COMPARTMENT. ITS PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS, I.E., RANGE, RATE OF FIRE, LETHALITY, MOBILITY AND PROTECTION, HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE INCREASED COMPARED WITH GUNS NOW IN SERVICE. IT CAN FIRE NUCLEAR AND NON-NUCLEAR AMMUNITION AND IS ENVISAGED FOR USE WITH ARTILLERY UNITS AT BRIGADE AND DIVISION LEVEL AND WITH INDEPENDENT SELF-CONTAINED UNITS OF CORPS ARTILLERY.

3. AS THE MOU IS NOW SIGNED BY THE THREE INTERESTED COUNTRIES, THE CNAD IS REQUESTED TO AGREE TO THE SETTING UP OF A PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE, AND IS ASKED TO:

A. NOTE THE SUBMISSION OF THE 155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER (SP.70) PROJECT AS A NATO PROJECT;

B. AGREE THAT THIS PROGRAMME MEETS THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED FOR THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE QUALIFICATION QUOTE NATO PROJECT UNQUOTE IN THAT:

(1) ITALY, FRG AND UK HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT;

(2) THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL SUBMIT THEIR ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE PROJECT TO THE CNAD;

(3) THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WOULD WELCOME THE ADMISSION OF OTHER NATO NATIONS SUBJECT TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF REASONABLE AND EQUITABLE CONDITIONS;

(4) THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THAT NATO AND THE OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES NOT PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROJECT HAD NO FINANCIAL OR OTHER LIABILITIES FOR THE EXECUTION OF THIS PROGRAMME.

4. PLEASE NOTE THAT UNLESS COMMENTS TO THE CONTRARY ARE COMMUNICATED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE BY 30 SEP 73, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE AGREEMENT OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS (NADREPS) TO THE ABOVE WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. END QUOTE.  
MCAULIFFE

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